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LB 451

And what Senator Thompson said is that it's just about adding additional people; it's not about whether this is a good idea, whether we're going to do it; it's just about adding additional people. And I...guess I have to agree with Senator Beutler that it seems like we can do the right thing and do it and have...effect some cost savings by having those individuals who are in place, trained, doing it, and avoid this creeping growth of the size of agencies, because we have wrestled with the adequacy of the work force in Probation for a number of years and we have added additional people consistently so that we can deal with the situation. And I would like to...I wonder if Senator Wehrbein might respond to a question because I know that we have added staff over the last few years to Probation and I wondered if you could tell us what we're looking at in terms of numbers.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, the last 4 years, 2 fiscal years, we've added 13 for McCook. Those are probation officers at McCook, so that's staffing because of the Work Ethic Camp that we've established out there. In addition, we did 6 additional probation officers statewide in that previous '99-2001 budget. This year we added 12 and it was cut back to 6 via the veto. So that's a total of 25 in the last 4 years, net.

SENATOR BROWN: And so, in essence, we're just talking about adding an additional 6 people...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That's not counting LB 451, right.

SENATOR BROWN: Well, yeah, with LB 451. But I think that we need to be very clear that...that we are not talking about whether we are going to do the policy that is a good policy. Obviously, it's a good policy if we are going to have more consistency and appropriateness in the way that we deal with juveniles. That is already going to happen. It is just whether we can do it, as Senator Beutler suggested that Lancaster County did it by having people assume some additional responsibilities, or if we are going to do it by adding more people even though those that we have in place have been trained and are using the